

I am extremely disturbed by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. They are abusing their power in order to direct the programming of local stations to air what amounts to political advertising without fair and equal representation of the contrasting views.

Sinclair is licensed to use the public airwaves free of charge, and is, therefore, obligated by law to serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.